

From: [R6HarveyRICT](#)
To: [R6HarveyInfo](#)
Subject: FW: HH2017COM 0915 INFO: 1400 Media Clips
Date: Friday, September 15, 2017 2:05:49 PM
Attachments: [image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

From: Hubbard, Joseph
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 2:05:46 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)
To: R6HarveyRICT; R6HarveySITL; R6HarveyPIO; Mason, Steve; Smith, Monica; Hayes, Scott; Smalley, Bryant; Webster, Susan; Carroll, Craig; Durant, Jennah; White, Terri-A; Spalding, Susan; Taheri, Diane; Larson, Darrin; Carey, Curtis; Vela, Austin; Assunto, Carmen; Acevedo, Janie; Olson, Alexandra
Cc: Biggs, Tonia; Rauscher, Leslie; Fanning, Cynthia; Martindale, Cary; Wang, Jonathan; Pemberton, Mary; Mekeel, Edward; Williams, Denise; Fitch, Bruce
Subject: HH2017COM 0915 INFO: 1400 Media Clips

UPDATE 1-Valero underestimated Houston refinery leak during Harvey, Reuters, 9/15/17

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/refinery-operations-valero-houston/update-1-valero-underestimated-houston-refinery-leak-during-harvey-idUKL5N1LW411>

Valero Energy Corp probably underestimated the leakage of dangerous chemicals when Hurricane Harvey hit its Houston refinery last month, a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency spokesman said. Spokesman David Gray said in an email late on Thursday that benzene and volatile organic chemicals that leaked into the air in Houston's Manchester neighborhood, whose residents reported powerful fumes in the days after the storm hit, probably came from a storage tank roof that partially collapsed on Aug. 27. The tank held light crude oil, Gray said.

High levels of chemicals found in air around Houston refinery after EPA told residents not to worry, Think Progress, 9/15/17

<https://thinkprogress.org/refinery-underestimated-chemical-release-f5b9cdc251e7/>

The Environmental Protection Agency acknowledged Thursday that Valero Energy "significantly underestimated" the amount of cancer-causing benzene and other volatile compounds that leaked from a Houston refinery damaged during Hurricane Harvey. The revelations came after an environmental group privately contracted to conduct six days of air quality testing in the Manchester neighborhood adjacent to the refinery, where residents continued to complain about strong odors coming from the facility.

EPA to potentially close lab in Houston, despite Harvey raising contamination worries, CNBC, 9/15/17

<https://www.cnbc.com/2017/09/15/epa-to-potentially-close-lab-in-harvey-hit-houston.html>

The Environmental Protection Agency will not renew the lease on a building that houses a regional lab in Houston, stirring concern among staff that the facility in the heart of the nation's oil-refining and chemicals hub will be closed. This comes after Hurricane Harvey flooded several of the region's Superfund sites, contaminated areas designated for federal cleanup, the Associated Press reported this month. The Houston metro area has more than a dozen of the sites, making it one of the country's most contaminated places, according to AP.

EPA demands Valero records on Houston refinery emissions release, Houston Chron, 9/15/17

<http://www.chron.com/business/energy/article/EPA-demands-Valero-records-on-Houston-refinery-12200878.php>

The enforcement division of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is demanding Valero Energy's records and maintenance history related to a storage tank roof failure after Hurricane Harvey that released cancer-causing benzene and other volatile compounds into the air. The EPA records request to Valero - a response is legally required - comes as the EPA said San Antonio-based Valero Energy "significantly underestimated" the amount of benzene and other compounds leaked during Harvey's torrential rains. The letter shows the EPA is choosing to further investigate the accident near East Houston's Manchester neighborhood.

EPA says benzene leak at Valero's Houston refinery was underestimated, Biz Journal, 9/15/17

<https://www.bizjournals.com/houston/news/2017/09/15/epa-says-benzene-leak-at-valero-s-houston-refinery.html>

Another energy company is working on revised estimates of the size of a Houston-area leak caused by Hurricane Harvey. The Houston Chronicle reports that San Antonio-based Valero Energy Corp. (NYSE: VLO) initially estimated a storage tank at its Houston refinery leaked about 6.7 pounds of benzene and more than 3,350 pounds of unspecified volatile compounds.

Oil and chemical spills from Hurricane Harvey big, but dwarfed by Katrina. Reuters, 9/15/17

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-storm-harvey-spills/oil-and-chemical-spills-from-hurricane-harvey-big-but-dwarfed-by-katrina-idUSKCN1BQ1E8>

More than 22,000 barrels of oil, refined fuels and chemicals spilled at sites across Texas in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, along with millions of cubic feet of natural gas and hundreds of tons of other toxic substances, a Reuters review of company reports to the U.S. Coast Guard shows.

This Week in Texas Energy: EPA Opens Investigation Into Crosby Arkema Plant, Texas Monthly, 9/15/17

<https://www.texasmonthly.com/energy/week-texas-energy-epa-opens-investigation-crosby-arkema-plant/>

The Environmental Protection Agency is investigating whether Arkema followed safety rules at its plant in Crosby, after chemical containers exploded and were on fire for days when the facility sustained damage during flooding from Hurricane Harvey. According to Reuters, the EPA sent Arkema a letter asking for information on whether the plant had followed chemical accident prevention rules and the Clean Air Act.

EPA union told critical Houston lab may close, CNN, 9/15/17

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/15/politics/epa-houston-hurricane-harvey/index.html>

An Environmental Protection Agency lab in Texas that's assisted with the response to Hurricane Harvey may close, the president of a union representing dozens of employees says. Clovis Steib, the president of the American Federation of Government Employees local 1003, told CNN the roughly 50 EPA employees at the lab -- including chemists, biologists and air, water and hazardous waste inspectors -- were told in April that the agency would not renew the lease for the building when it expires in 2020.

Best,

Joe Hubbard

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